

In regard to claims 4, 5, 9 and 10, these claims depend from claims 3 and 8 respectively and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, at least for the reasons mentioned in regard to claims 3 and 8, claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 are not obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 are requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely claims 1-10 patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: December 10, 2002

By: Thomas M. Coester
Thomas M. Coester, Reg. No. 39,637

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 10, 2002.

Lillian E. Rodriguez
Lillian E. Rodriguez

12-10-02
December 10, 2002